

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, MU

SUBJECT: OMAN FY-1975 IV PROGRAM

REF: STATE 153725 OF JULY 1974

1. EMBASSY REQUESTS APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE IV GRANTS FY-75 FOR YUSUF AL-ALAWI, UNDERSECRETARY, MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MISS ALLIAH SALIM AL-SAID, DIRECTOR, RUMAIS PRODUCTION FARM, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (FOR IWY SEMINAR). COMBINED WITH PREVIOUSLY APPROVED GRANT FOR KHALFAN BIN NASIR AL-WOHEIBI, WE THUS MIGHT USE MAXIMUM OF THREE IV GRANTS BEFORE JUNE 30. WE DO NOT RPT NOT EXPECT USE FOURTH GRANT PREVIOUSLY APPROVED FOR DR.ASIM AL-JAMALI, WHO HAS LOST HIS POSITION AS HEALTH MINISTER.

2. AL-ALAWI AND MISS AL-SAID HAVE BEEN APPROACHED ON INFORMAL BASIS. BOTH REPORT THEY ARE INTERESTED IF TIMING CAN BE WORKED OUT AND PERMISSION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM RESPECTIVE MINISTRIES. WE WILL FORWARD COMPLETE NOMINATION AS SOON AS BIODATA RECEIVED.

3. AL-ALAWI, IN HIS EARLY 30'S, IS DHOFARI WHO FORMERLY HELD HIGH POSITION IN NDF, PFLO PRECURSOR ORGANIZATION. SINCE JOINING GOVERNMENT, HE HAS PERFORMED WELL IN POSITIONS OF INCREASING IMPORTANCE, INCLUDING SERVICE AS OMANI AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON AND PRESENT JOB. HE IS ANXIOUS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT U.S. FOREIGN AFFAIRS MACHINERY, INCLUDING ADMINIS-

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TRATIVE ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES. HE HAS ALSO EXPRESSED

INTEREST IN U.S. SPACE PROGRAM, OTHER TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS, AS WELL AS AMERICAN POLITICAL PROCESS. AL-ALAWI HAS REASONABLY GOOD COMMAND OF ENGLISH.

4. MISS AL-SAID, ALSO UNDER 35, ONE OF EXTREMELY FEW OMANI WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT OUTSIDE MINEDUCATION. HER AGRICULTURE STATION GENERALLY REGARDED ONE OF BEST IN COUNTRY. BORN IN ZANZIBAR, SHE POSSESSES BA FROM CAIRO. SHE IS VERY ARTICULATE IN ARABIC AND ENGLISH AS WELL AS HER NATIVE SWAHILI.

5. RE KHALFAN BIN NASIR'S PLANS, SNAG HAS BEEN ENCOUNTERED. WHILE HE CONTINUES TO EXPRESS HOPE OF TRAVEL TO U.S. IN MAY, HE HAS ASKED EMBASSY INTERCEDE WITH SULTAN ON HIS BEHALF. HE CLAIMS SULTAN WON'T LET HIM GO IF VISIT CONSIDERED "OFFICIAL", AND SAYS THAT SULTAN DISPLEASED WITH VISIT FORMER IV GRANTEE ABDUL HAFIDH SALIM RAJAB ON THIS ACCOUNT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: IN ADDITION APPROVAL REQUESTED ABOVE, PLS FORWARD SOONEST EXACT DATES IWY SEMINAR AND PROGRAM MATERIALS. WE POSSESS ONLY STATE AIRGRAMS A-6973 AND A-6971, BOTH 1974, THIS TOPIC.
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